

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

Filed: February 20, 2020

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AMY MORENO,

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UNPUBLISHED

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Petitioner,

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No. 19-170V

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v.

*

Special Master Gowen

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

*

Motion for Dismissal Decision;

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Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis

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("Tdap) vaccine; Influenza ("flu")

Respondent.

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vaccine; Guillain-Barré Syndrome.

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Amy A. Senerth, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for petitioner.

Darryl R. Wishard, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., for respondent

DECISION¹

On January 31, 2019, Amy Moreno ("petitioner") filed a petition in the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.² Petition (ECF No. 1). Petitioner alleged that as a result of receiving the Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis ("Tdap") and influenza ("flu") vaccines on February 11, 2016, she suffered Guillain-Barré Syndrome ("GBS"). Petition at Preamble. The information in the record does not establish entitlement to compensation.

On February 19, 2020, petitioner file a motion dismissing petition. Petitioner's Motion ("Pet. Mot.") (ECF No. 22). Petitioner notified petitioner's counsel that there was no additional evidence to demonstrate that her alleged vaccine injury lasted for at least six months. Pet. Mot. at ¶ 1. Petitioner stated that to proceed further would be unreasonable and would waste the resources of the Court, Respondent and the Vaccine Program. *Id.* at ¶ 4. Petitioner understands that a decision by the special master dismissing her petition will result in a judgment against her

¹ Pursuant to the E-Government Act of 2002, *see* 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012), because this opinion contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the website of the United States Court of Federal Claims. The court's website is at <http://www.uscfc.uscourts.gov/aggregator/sources/7>. **This means the opinion will be available to anyone with access to the Internet.** Before the opinion is posted on the court's website, each party has 14 days to file a motion requesting redaction "of any information furnished by that party: (1) that is a trade secret or commercial or financial in substance and is privileged or confidential; or (2) that includes medical files or similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy." Vaccine Rule 18(b). An objecting party must provide the court with a proposed redacted version of the opinion. *Id.* **If neither party files a motion for redaction within 14 days, the opinion will be posted on the court's website without any changes. *Id.***

² The Program comprises Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10 *et seq.* (hereinafter "Vaccine Act" or "the Act"). Hereafter, individual section references will be to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa of the Act.

and that such a judgment will end all of her rights in the Vaccine Program. *Id.* at ¶ 3. Petitioner understands that she may apply for fees and costs once the case is dismissed and judgment is entered against her. *Id.* at ¶ 4. Respondent expressly reserves the right to question the good faith and reasonable basis of this claim and to oppose, if appropriate, petitioner's application for fees and costs. Respondent otherwise does not oppose the motion. *Id.* at ¶ 5. Petitioner has not determined whether she will elect to reject the Vaccine Program judgment and elect to file a civil action. *Id.* at ¶ 6.

To receive compensation in the Vaccine Program, petitioner has the burden of proving either: (1) that petitioner suffered a "Table Injury," i.e., an injury beginning within a specified period of time following receipt of a corresponding vaccine listed on the Vaccine Injury Table (a "Table injury") or (2) that petitioner suffered an injury that was caused-in-fact by a covered vaccine. §§ 13(a)(1)(A); 11(c)(1). Additionally, a petitioner must show that she experienced the residual effects of her alleged injury for more than six months, or that her injury required a hospitalization involving surgical intervention. § 11(c)(1)(D)(i) and (ii). Moreover, under the Vaccine Act, the Vaccine Program may not award compensation based on petitioner's claims alone. Rather, petitioner must support the claim with either medical records or the opinion of a competent medical expert. § 13(a)(1). In this case, petitioner is alleging she suffered an injury that was caused-in-fact by covered vaccines, however, she has not provided sufficient proof establishing that the residual effects of her alleged injury lasted for six months or longer, or that she underwent surgical intervention during a hospitalization.

Accordingly, petitioner's motion is GRANTED. This matter is DISMISSED for insufficient proof. The Clerk of the Court shall enter judgment accordingly.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Thomas L. Gowen

Thomas L. Gowen
Special Master

³ Entry of judgment is expedited by each party's filing notice renouncing the right to seek review. Vaccine Rule 11(a).